

and Australian gold fields for the three most momentous years :

|                    | 1851.   | 1852.   | 1853.   |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| California....lbs. | 262,000 | 252,000 | 252,000 |
| Australia..... "   | 30,000  | 330,000 | 210,000 |

#### BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

NOVA SCOTIA.—In 1855, Dr. Dawson published in his "Acadian Geology" a description of the "Atlantic Coast Metamorphic district," which is about 250 miles in extent from Cape Sable in the west to Cape Canseau in the east, and consists of clay slates and quartz rocks ; the slates of various degrees of coarseness and of grey and black tints ; the quartz being in thick massive beds of a grey color, and being commonly called "whin." In some localities these are replaced by mica slate and gneiss, penetrated by veins and masses of intrusive granite. These rocks are considered to belong to the *lower part of the lower silurian* and contain no trace of organism, and are considered to be the equivalents of the Australian, Californian and Canadian auriferous rocks. The doctor indicated the probability of these Nova Scotian rocks being auriferous, but gold was not discovered till 1860, when it was the result of accident.

The gold fields of Nova Scotia have hitherto yielded very little gold from washings, which are confined to the deposits of sand between high and low water mark on the Lunenburg coast. The quartz has been and still promises to be the chief and permanent source of supply. It is supposed that from the close vicinage of the gold bearing mountain range, to the coast, and from the grooves in the rocks indicating the direction of the glacial drift, all the disintegrated matter was carried into the Atlantic, and deposited at its bottom, and a portion of it thrown up with the